

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Samuel A. Massey

Confirmation No.:

Application No.:

Examiner:

Filing Date:

Group Art Unit:

Title: PRINTER STRUCTURE

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- (X) under 37 CFR 1.97(b), or
(Within three months of filing national application; or date of entry of national application; or before mailing date of first office action on the merits; whichever occurs last)
- () under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either a:
() Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), or
() a \$180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or
(After the CFR 1.97 (b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)
- () under 37 CFR 1.97 (d) together with a:
() Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1) or (2), and
() a \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).
(Filed after final action, a notice of allowance, on or before payment of the issue fee)

Please charge to Deposit Account **08-2025** the sum of \$0.00. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account **08-2025** pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25.

(X) Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449 - Information Disclosure Statement together with any required copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe(s) may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

(X) A concise explanation of the relevance of foreign language patents, foreign language publications and other foreign language information listed on PTO Form 1449, as presently understood by the individuals(s) designated in 37 CFR 1.56 (c) most knowledgeable about the content is given on the attached sheet, or where a foreign language patent is cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, an English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is listed on form PTO 1449 and is enclosed herewith.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

"Express Mail" label no. **EV 431597160 US**

Date of Deposit **3/11/04**

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By

Typed Name: **Faye A. LeClair**

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel A. Massey

By

Todd A. Rathe

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. **38,276**

Date: **3/11/04**

FORM PTO-1449

LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR
APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

200312726-1

APPLICATION NO.

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GROUP

REFERENCE DESIGNATION

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	NAME	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Figures Appear
	1A	6,575,554	06-10-2003	Yoshinaga	
	1B	6,481,824	11-19-2002	Hayakawa et al.	
	1C	6,481,827	11-19-2002	Yearout	
	1D	6,454,374	09-24-2002	Therien	
	1E	6,239,817	05-29-2001	Meyer	
	1F	6,206,500	03-27-2001	Hirano et al.	
	1G	5,997,129	12-07-1999	Matsushashi	
	1H	5,771,052	06-23-1998	Hine et al.	
	1I	5,719,602	02-17-1998	Hackleman et al.	
	1J	5,686,944	11-11-1997	Takagi et al.	
	1K	5,677,719	10-14-1997	Granzow	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	NAME OF PATENTEE OR APPLICANT	Pages/Columns/Lines Where Relevant Passages/Figures Appear	Check if Translation attached
	1L	JP2003 39753	02-13-2003	Kubo et al.		
	1M	JP2001 88375	04-03-2001	Nishihata		
	1N	EP 0995 603	04-26-2000	Meyer		
	1O	JP2000118058	04-25-2000	Meyer		
	1P	JP10 244680	09-14-1998	Tanaka		

OTHER REFERENCES (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	1Q	
	1R	
	1S	

EXAMINER

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	NAME	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Figures Appear
	2A	5,659,342	08-19-1997	Lund et al.	
	2B	5,627,571	05-06-1997	Anderson et al.	
	2C	5,571,587	11-05-1996	Bishop et al.	
	2D	5,517,222	05-14-1996	Suglyama et al.	
	2E	5,510,815	04-23-1996	Linder et al.	
	2F	5,393,151	02-28-1995	Martin et al.	
	2G	5,291,227	03-01-1994	Suzuki	
	2H	5,192,141	03-09-1993	Chung et al.	
	2I	5,173,596	12-22-1992	Kapinos et al.	
	2J	4,975,780	12-04-1990	Kuboki	
	2K	4,701,771	10-20-1987	Ikeda	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	NAME OF PATENTEE OR APPLICANT	Pages/Columns/Lines Where Relevant Passages/Figures Appear	Check if Translation attached
	2L	JP10217502	08-18-1998	Kawamura		
	2M					
	2N					
	2O					
	2P					

OTHER REFERENCES (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	2Q	
	2R	
	2S	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

CONCISE EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE OF DOCUMENT NOT IN THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE

Abstract of EP 0 995 603

A borderless printer (10) having a print zone (18) includes a platen (30) having an opening defined by a set of upstanding wall members (34) that terminate in a lip (36). A front set of cockle ribs (35) and a rear set of cockle ribs (37) extend upwardly from said lip (36) for supporting from below a medium sheet (16) as it passes over said platen (30). A block of ink absorbent member (40) is disposed below the lip (36) and within the platen opening for absorbing an over the edge ejection of ink droplets directed at the peripheral edge of the medium sheet (16) as it passes through the print zone (18) to facilitate the formation of a borderless print.

Abstract of JP2003039753

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To surely prevent ink from being adhered to a rear face of a recording paper even when ink is ejected on a platen and to remove the ink from the platen without executing a specific removing operation.

SOLUTION: A plurality of ribs 71, 72 extending in a conveyance direction of a recording paper are provided to be projected on the surface of the platen 7. Ink introducing grooves 75, 76 extending in the conveyance direction of the recording paper are formed at the central section of the ribs 71, 72 in the width direction. Each of the ink introducing grooves 75, 76 is formed such that the cross section thereof is reduced gradually as it goes toward the downstream side in the conveyance direction of the recording paper. The ink in the ink introducing grooves 75, 76 is allowed to flow toward a portion having a smaller cross section by a capillarity to be discharged from the platen 7.

Abstract of JP2000118058

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To enable improved printing over an entire area of a sheet by setting a front set and a rear set of wave-shaped ribs to a platen in order to support the sheet passing on the platen from below and providing an ink-absorbing member for absorbing ink drops discharged exceeding an edge.

SOLUTION: When a sheet 16 is fed and transferred by an upper paper guide 28 and a paper feed mechanism 20, a hollow platen 30 having a front set 35 of wave-shaped ribs and a rear set 37 of wave-shaped ribs is set to support the sheet 16 from below as the sheet 16 passes from an end to an end of a print zone. The platen 30 is provided with a bottom having an outer peripheral part secured by an erect wall 34. An ink-absorbing material sheet 40 is stored in a hollow support area 38. The front and rear sets 35, 37 of wave-shaped ribs are set to project over an edge 36 and the absorbing material 40 by a sufficient height to support the sheet from below as the sheet 16 passes under a print engine 60.

Abstract of JP2001088375

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To smoothly discharge ink adhering on a platen.

SOLUTION: Platen ribs 61 as projections for holding a medium to be recorded to a proper recording position are set on a platen 60. Holes 62 are opened to both sides of a root part 63 of the platen rib 61 to be parallel to side faces of the platen rib 61. When ink adheres wrong to the platen 60, e.g. when an image of a larger breadth than a breadth of the medium to be recorded is printed wrong or in a like case, the ink is guided to the root part 63 by a gravity or a surface tension of the ink if the ink of some volume or more collects and is smoothly discharged from the holes 62 along the side faces of the platen rib 61.

Abstract of JP10244680

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To remove ink adhering to a rib stably for a long time by providing an ink absorber in a guide holder and transferring ink adhering to a wiper by a rib provided in a carrier, transporting to the ink absorber and sucking the ink by a pump through a tube.

SOLUTION: The capping mechanism of an ink jet recorder is provided with an ink absorber 7 in the non-printing area of a guide holder 6 and is provided in the non-printing area of a carrier 1, removes ink adhering to a wiper 12, and transfers it to the ink absorber 7 by a rib 3. The rib 3 is provided in the carrier 1 and ink 8 is scraped off by scraping ink off the nozzle face by the wiper 12 in the order of heads 2a, 2b, 2c, and rubbing the nozzle face side surface of the wiper 12 in close proximity to the head 2c. At such time, ink that is wiped off adheres to the head 2c side face of the rib 3. Ink that is contained in the ink absorber 7 is sucked by a pump 11 through a tube 10a.

Abstract of JP10217502

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an ink-jet printer that can prevent a paper from being stained when printed.

SOLUTION: In a waste ink container 31 arranged inside a box-like projecting part 15, a front wall 31f continuing downward from an opening 31e and a rear wall opposite to the front wall 31f are provided at the side of an ink-jet head. A rear side of an ink-absorbing body 32 is butted to each rib 31i formed in the rear wall of the waste ink container 31, thereby forming each gap 31j between the rear side of the ink-absorbing body 32 and the waste ink container 31. When the ink is pre-discharged, most of the ink discharged from the ink-jet head runs downward along the rear wall of the waste ink container 31 via each gap 31j. During the time, the ink is absorbed from the rear side of the ink-absorbing body 32 and at the same time, stored at a lower part of the waste ink container 31 to be absorbed from a lower part to an upper part of the ink-absorbing body 32.